

ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 January 1986

FILE ONLY

HARVARD SAYS PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY PARTLY TO BLAME OVER FUNDING TEFF
CAMBRIDGE, MA

A Harvard University professor was wrong in not disclosing that he received CIA money for a conference on the Middle East, but Harvard also was at fault for not enforcing research guidelines, according to a university report released Thursday.

Professor Nadav Safran, who has agreed to step down as director of the school's Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the end of the school year, said the six-page report exonerated him.

The report, written by Faculty Dean A. Michael Spence, follows a three-month review to determine whether Safran followed university guidelines when he accepted two grants totaling more than \$150,000 from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Controversy erupted at Harvard when it was disclosed in October that Safran had accepted \$45,700 from the CIA for a conference on Islamic fundamentalism without first notifying the university or conference participants. Safran acknowledged the funding after news media inquiries.

Harvard guidelines do not prohibit CIA sponsorship of research, but require disclosure of the source of research funds to the university.

In his report, Spence said Safran was wrong not to disclose the source of the conference funding. But the dean also said the university was to blame for failing to act when Safran first informed then-dean of the faculty Henry Rosovsky of a separate \$107,430 CIA contract to help finance a book on Saudi Arabia.

The book contract gave the CIA the right of pre-publication review and stipulated that the CIA not be disclosed as a funding source provisions that violate Harvard's guidelines on acceptance of outside funding, Spence said.

The report said Safran notified Rosovsky of his book contract with the CIA in May 1982, a week after signing it, but "as far as I have been able to determine, he received no response."

Rosovsky, who now works for the Harvard Corp., said his office had made an administrative error.

Safran said the report had cleared him of charges that he tried to cover up the CIA contracts, but he said he was distressed that Harvard had taken so long to conduct the investigation.

"I felt deeply hurt that I was not given the credit I felt I deserved after 27 years at the university," he said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "It was open season for all sorts of people to make all kinds of allegations and unfounded charges."

But Richard N. Frye, a professor of Iranian studies, called the report "a whitewash" that examined only the technical question of whether Safran had violated university guidelines.

"The broader moral issue of what he did was not addressed," Frye said.

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In his report, Spence said the university would disband the Middle Eastern Center's executive committee, noting that three of its members had called for Safran's resignation without consulting the others.

In its place, he said, another faculty group on Middle Eastern Studies will "take a much more active role in the oversight of the center and its policies." He said the committee would consider such things as whether the center should accept CIA grants at all.

Spence's report said Safran would remain at Harvard as a tenured professor, noting that he is "a distinguished scholar" whose "erudition and objectivity as a scholar have not been questioned."

Spence acknowledged publicity over Safran's handling of the CIA funds "may have caused a loss of confidence in the center and in the university's ability to follow effectively its policies in areas that are crucial to scholars."